



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

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**HAWAII TO LAUNCH YEAR-LONG CELEBRATIONS OF REEFS
-- GOVERNOR, COMMUNITY LEADERS AND 40 LOCAL GROUPS --
KICK OFF "INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE REEF"
ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 25**

WHAT: Hawai'i will soon launch the International Year of the Reef with Gov. Linda Lingle signing a declaration, famed navigator Nainoa Thompson speaking at the State Capitol, and more than 40 local groups hosting a kick-off event. The purpose is to raise awareness about the value and importance of Hawai'i's reefs, threats to their survival, and actions people can take to protect this vital resource.

WHEN & WHERE: **Friday, Jan. 25 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm**
State Capitol, Honolulu

*10:00 a.m.: Gov. Lingle signs declaration of year-long celebration in her chambers on the fifth floor of the State Capitol. (*News media are invited.)

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.: Kick-off event at State Capitol 3rd floor. Educational booths by 40 local groups, eco-friendly seafood and free giveaways. Speech by Nainoa Thompson, executive director of the Polynesian Voyaging Society, at 11 a.m.

WHO: The local celebration of this global campaign is a partnership of the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), Malama Hawai'i, The Nature Conservancy and the Coral Reef Outreach Network.

WHY: Coral reefs are the most diverse ecosystem in the ocean, but they are in crisis. Reefs are experiencing declines in many species of fish, corals, invertebrates and algae due to land-based pollution, overfishing, non-native species, climate change and coral disease. It is essential that coral reefs be restored because they provide income, food for humans and marine life, critical habitat for marine species, protection of shorelines, and potential medicinal cures.

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DLNR holds information meeting on plans for Maalaea harbor pump out project

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